

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 /069 W

----- 007262

R 041028Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4429

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: AZIZ AHMED ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS

1. PAK PRESS HAS HEADLINED MARCH SECOND STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT PACE OF NORMALIZATION OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS HAS BEEN SLOWED FOR LAST NINE MONTHS, BUT SINCE NORMALIZATION WAS IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, RESUMPTION OF THE PROCESS COULD BE EXPECTED. WHILE SPEAKING IN OPPOSITION TO AN ADJOURNMENT MOTION, AZIZ CLAIMED THE SLOW PACE WAS NOT ISLAMABAD'S FAULT AND THAT PAKISTAN IS READY TO DISCUSS THREE OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHENEVER INDIANS WANT TO DO SO: RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AIR LINKS AND OVERFLIGHTS, AND THE KASHMIR ISSUE.

2. AZIZ FURTHER NOTED THAT UNTIL RECENT SLOW-DOWN, NORMALIZATION PROCESS HAD BEEN PROCEEDINGLY SATISFACTORILY. HE CITED RETURN OF POWS, LIMITED
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RESTORATION OF TRAVEL BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, AND AGREE-

MENTS TO RESUME SHIPPING, POSTAL FACILITIES, TRADE
AND BANKING FACILITIES. HE ADDED NEW DELHI IS NOW
ASSERTING PAKISTAN IS SLOWING DOWN SIMLA PROCESS AND
THAT HOSTILE PROPAGANDA HAS REAPPEARED IN INDIAN
PRESS. HE SAID GOP HAS BROUGHT EXAMPLES OF THIS
PROPAGANDA TO ATTENTION OF GOI NOTING IT IS IN VIOLATION
OF SIMLA ACCORD.

3. AZIZ AHMED'S PRESENTATION WAS ESSENTIALLY MODERATE
AND NON-CONTENTIOUS AND EMPHASIZED MUTUAL BENEFITS
TO BE GAINED FROM PURSUIT OF NORMALIZATION ON SUB-
CONTINENT. MFA OFFICIAL SAID TO EMBOFF THAT CONCILIATORY
TONE OF AZIZ'S REMARKS ESPECIALLY NOTABLE CONSIDERING
INDIAN DEFENCE MINISTER BANSI LAL'S RECENT CLAIM, WHICH
HAS RECEIVED MILD PRESS PLAY HERE, THAT PAKISTAN IS
"ARMING FEVERISHLY" AND THAT INDIA FORCES WILL GIVE
"CRUSHING BLOW" TO ANY AGGRESSOR.
BYROADE

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